

OVERALL CONCERNS:**Primary Needs for Galveston County**

- HHW Collection/Drop Off
- Brief household mold messaging with pictograms

Wharton County

Wharton County has started collecting debris to a transfer station and there seems to be no debris separation.

No HHHW is being separated from debris.

Wharton**Summary**

We drove to Wharton County this morning and found widespread flooding damage.

Most homes have large debris piles at the street.

We met with the Emergency Management Coordinator, City Manager, Assistant to City Manager, City Secretary, finance official, and facilities Manager. They were very happy to receive the fact sheets and requested more. They offered to place fact sheets on their website and reproduce paper copies for their residents. We sent electronic copies when we were back at the lab.

The city would appreciate help with locating cleaning supplies. They have searched outside the area and even out of state. They could also use laborers to help with the cleanup.

They relayed that we should also contact the Emergency Management Official for the County and schools. We arranged a meeting with the County for Tuesday, 9/12 at 10:00 am with the county.

We met with the maintenance supervisor for the Wharton County Junior College. The college was not impacted by the flooding, but the high school nearby was. We left message for the school superintendent and maintenance official to see if they need

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Not at this time

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Large mixed debris piles are located in front of homes. It appears that the piles have not been sorted to remove potential household hazardous waste, but waste containers were not visible from the road.

<p>assistance such as lab chemicals in school labs.</p> <p>The city water supply maintained pressure during the flooding and wasn't impacted.</p> <p>They have an approved debris staging area and will begin debris removal today. Sorting of debris isn't clear. Schools will be opening starting today.</p> <p>They will be distributing 1500 water sample kits to rural residents on private wells.</p>	
Harris	
<p>Summary</p> <p>Team visited the Baytown State of Texas/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. Spoke with the FEMA mitigation outreach representative who stated he could use help providing information to the public about mold and indoor air quality. He stated EPA could set up a table to provide information on these topics. We then spoke with Center manager, Linda Williams (706) 302-9395, who welcomed EPA to set up a table but said that she could not make any copies of outreach materials because they only have a small printer, which is currently broken.</p> <p>Team also completed a spreadsheet of all cities in Harris County, including their addresses and phone contacts. Team will begin calls to these entities tomorrow.</p> <p>Team is currently en route to Baytown Community Center (Harris County).</p>	
Questions/Comments	

Lake Charles	
<p>Summary</p> <p>Contact made with the Assistant City Administrator, Kimberly Dellafosse. Ms. Dellafosse stated that approximately 300 homes were flooded in the City of Lake Charles and the City has not yet been identified as a federal disaster area. Many of the homes were inhabited by elderly citizens and the City of Lake Charles worked closely with volunteer groups, United Way and Southern Baptist Church to provide labor to remove all damaged carpet, drywall and furniture from the homes. However, their citizens will require some additional assistance to reconstruct/replace the damage areas. Furthermore, the Vinton, Louisiana area is a rural area, is located in Wards 5 and 6 of Calcasieu Parish, were heavily flooded, and remained flooded for an extended period of time. Ms. Dellafosse stated that the community of Vinton, Louisiana may feel they have been overlooked by the Federal Government do to the large flooded areas in Texas and now Hurricane Irma. We set an appointment to speak with Ms. Dellafosse in Lake Charles to discuss available assistance at 11:00 a.m. on 9/12/17. From there I will attempt to contact Vinton, Louisiana officials.</p> <p>My Question/need is to determine what assistance is available to areas not declared as a federal disaster area (e.g. Calcasieu Parish) prior to the meeting if possible.</p>	
Questions/Comments	
Community Concerns	
Matagorda	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary On 9/10/17 contact was made with Douglas Matthes, the county emergency coordinator. He stated that their county overall was not heavily impacted by the hurricane, and their impacts were community specific. He referred EPA to contact Lisa Krobot, environmental health director. • On 9/11/17 EPA personnel met with Lisa Krobot, Gilbert Perez and Cris Cruz the food and sanitation lead inspectors. We asked if EPA could provide any information or resources and the county team requested the following outreach materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health concerns during flood cleanups fact sheet in Vietnamese. ○ Indoor air quality during clean ups as related to mold in Vietnamese. ○ Flooded septic tank and systems clean up in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. • All the documents requested in Spanish will be provided via email as we already have those, however we have nothing to provide for them in Vietnamese and they have a large Vietnamese community which they are struggling to reach. • The only new request was for fact sheets or outreach materials related to septic tank and systems flooding, and cleanup health hazards. 	
Questions/Comments	
Community Concerns	
Summary	

<p>Team will be working from EPA Houston Lab Tuesday to setup a new round of discussions with county officials and work on specific issues addressed in our concerns before returning to Jasper and Newton later in the week. Possible meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton County Judge • Jasper County Judge • University Extension – Newton • University Extension – Jasper <p>We are seeing needs but we are also seeing frustration. We believe we can put through a positive effort but need more connection with agencies and staff who can help us get things done.</p>	
<p>Questions/Comments</p>	
<p>Community Concerns</p> <p>Discussion with Billy Smith, EOM for Jasper-Newton-Sabine County Local Emergency Planning Commission, was difficult today because we really haven't seen anything different. Mr. Smith did say that the Small Business Administration representative was in Jasper, Texas and talking with local bank officials.</p> <p><u>Jasper/Newton (Mr. Smith) concerns</u> mostly include the lack of a rural perspective -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris and HHW staging/pickup - According to Curtis Carey, JFO EPA Liaison, FEMA is reimbursing county or city pickup of debris and HHW. To get local information they can check with the county or city (whoever manages their normal waste pickup). They could also call the FEMA Debris Hotline if they don't know who manages their local pickup: 855-336-2003. Mr. Smith was concerned that this would take too long and would not cover rural residences. • The Disaster Response Centers that are being set up are a long way from Jasper and Newton counties (more than 2 hours 	

<p>to the nearest one) and still don't provide any rural perspective on what is needed. In May 2016, FEMA and other response agencies established a DRC in Jasper at their building. All the handicapped accessibility requirements were met for that meeting so there wouldn't be too much difficulty certifying it as an acceptable building. If no DRC can be established, is there other options available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 80 percent of the counties residents have private wells and the counties do not have a plan to provide well sampling kits to residents. Other options available? We mentioned that other counties were providing private well testing and he indicated that there had been some talks with the county extension agent but he doubted that they will have that option. He indicated that private well testing will be an issue but they don't have a plan to provide them with kits. Plans are to speak to the Jasper-Newton Health Department regarding options.• Red Cross or any other volunteer service agency does NOT have a presence in Jasper/Newton and there doesn't seem to be any intention to have services available. <p>EPA Team Jasper/Newton concerns –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printing issues – need to print copies of specific fact sheets on disinfecting homes, mold issues, etc. Printing Officers? Can there be a contract for entire Community Liaison group to allow for dissemination to all the affected counties? Currently, methods are to provide one master copy to county officials for them to print. Conversations have included having EPA CLs to staff tables at community centers but no copies are available to handout at those events.• Need to work secondary levels beyond emergency operations to discuss needs	
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<p>for both rural and private citizens in the towns of the counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting with extension – hoping extension agencies will be able to give us a more knowledgeable thoughts on rural and agrarian needs.• Meeting with county judge – need to obtain a municipal look on needs going forward.• HHW and debris collection is a serious issue but there doesn't seem to be a clear answer that is getting to the affected counties.• Frustration is starting to group when the only agency they see in Jasper is EPA letters. Need a better federal presence and a better social service presence.• Service Center rural disconnect – know that there are more people in Houston needing assistance but shouldn't be at the expense of the rural counties.• Role of Community Liaisons – does all requests for information regarding the response go through Janette or can we contact EPA Unified Command KLPs directly.• PIO – need help getting information to rural citizens. Most likely avenues include the Beaumont Enterprise, community weeklies, Beaumont television stations, local radio. Social networks are being used but residents are just now returning to their homes and access may be an issue.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary Met with Galveston County EOC Garrett Fostik and his team (Meaghan Kenny and Laura Norman) on Monday, September 11, 2017 @10:00am.• Galveston has 5,000 rural and 25,000 urban homes in which 3,000 homes were impacted by flooding.• Garrett indicated he was provided Fact Sheets by Steve Mason (EPA) which he	

<p>distributed to cities within Galveston County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate need is for the collection of Household Hazard Waste (HHW) drop off points. A resource that was provided to them during Hurricane Ike. • Immediate need for debris collection. • Three (3) landfills within the county. Concerns regarding asbestos. • Significant concerns regarding mold. • FEMA Inspection of the proposed DRCs is scheduled for today. • We were able to participate in the scheduled Local EMC Conference Call at 11:00am where we were introduced to the EOC's from each City within Galveston include: Bayou Vista, Clear Lake Shores, Dickinson, Friendswood, Galveston, Hitchcock, Jamaica Beach, Kemah, La Marque, League City, Santa Fe, Texas City, Tiki Island. • Conference Call Discussions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative for Ted Cruz (Austin Smithson) should be contacted by local officials if any road blocks, speed bumps, issues, etc hinder recovery on the federal side. ○ Impact on Small Businesses – attempting to assess jobs lost ○ Mosquito Control – will send flyers to residents indicating spraying will take place on Friday. • “IF” a HHW Drop off is established, recommend placing in the following Cities: Friendswood, League City, Santa Fe, Dickinson, Baycliff • Provided contact Ron Shultz 409-938-2314 (cell), 409-927-4476 (home), 409-392-0024 (work) regarding wells and septic cleaning and testing. • Galveston County Health District charges \$10 <p><u>2pm Meeting Minutes with Cities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants from FEMA, Galveston County EMS, Health District, Cities 	
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<p>(League City, LaMarque, Dickinson, Galveston, Friendswood).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health District indicated they spoke with Gloria Vaughn & Arturo Blanco from Region 6 about well-water testing using test Kits. Jake Stowell (EPA, Community Liaison) reiterated we (EPA) have not officially agreed to provide this service as of yet and this decision is still being discussed.• Reiterated the need for HHW Collection points. And expressed concern how citizens will be able to drop off since most lost their vehicles in the flood.• Indicated that during Hurricane Ike, EPA started collection 30 days after flooding and collected HHW for 30 days.• Galveston recently had a HHW collection this past Spring.• Discussed community groups within County and if they could be utilized to provide information to community.• Discussed Mold and EPA Fact Sheets. Fact sheets are for schools and commercial buildings. Need Mold Fact sheet for Households that point out that chlorine bleach CAN be used. Concerned citizens will be swayed to use other more expensive products offered on the market.• Currently, mixed messaging concerning the use of chlorine bleach. Need messaging regarding using bleach and how it may not be “most” effective but still is effective.• Requested EPA provide message (via Info-graphic) about the use of bleach and not mixing any other products with bleach which can be since out through social media (Facebook and Twitter)• County and city officials indicated EPA is a trusted source of info, thus a brief message from EPA would be well received and likely very helpful to residents.• Approximately 1,000 water wells in Galveston County. Most wells are 100 to	
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<p>400 feet in depth. Approximately, 200 homes with wells affected in the City of Galveston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most homes affected are newer low land housing and not historic areas where lead maybe found.• Many Cities were unable to attend meeting so they asked for a contact person. Also State Senator requested contact information. Bill Dunbar's name and contact was given. <p><u>Primary Needs for Galveston County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HHW Collection/Drop Off• Brief household mold messaging with pictograms• EPA Disinfectant in Drinking Water Fact Sheet. Need English version. Only Spanish version is available.	
Questions/Comments	
Community Concerns	